

PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

L115.727

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Date of filing Complete Specification: 11 Nov., 1966.

Application Date: 15 Nov., 1965.

No. 48316/65.

Complete Specification Published: 29 May, 1968.

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Index at acceptance:—A5 R (B12B, B16A, B35)

Int. Cl.:—A 61 f 5/00

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Apparatus Controlling Incontinence in the Female

I, HARRY HALL-TOMKIN of 31 Denmark Road, Exeter, of British Nationality, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:

This invention relates to means for the control of incontinence in the female and concerns means for controlling incontinence in the female by the use of intravaginal devices.

The object of my invention is to provide means whereby mechanical pressure is exerted from an intravaginal device on the tissues around the lower parts of the urinary or alimentary tracts or both thus obstructing involuntary performance of urination or defaecation or of both. This pressure can be released at will thus enabling these functions to take place unimpeded.

According to my invention I provide an intravaginal pessary to which are fixed by adhesive or other means one or more distensible balloons or a distensible tube around the outer side. These are fixed in such a manner as to allow the distension to take place mainly in an outward direction and exert pressure on the vaginal walls. If the tube fixed to the pessary is used, distension of it exerts more generalized pressure on the vaginal walls.

For urinary or faecal incontinence alone, one distensible balloon or the distensible tube is all that may be necessary. For both forms of incontinence one, two or more distensible balloons or the distensible tube may be necessary.

The distensible portions are connected by a tube or tubes passing through the pessary to a bulb, syringe or other means of distension. Near the end of this tube or tubes can be one or more pilot balloons (which would indicate the degree of distension on the pessary) and non-return valves or taps and nozzles for attachment of the bulb or other means of producing distension.

The pessary is in the form of a ring and

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can be either round, oval or of any other suitable shape. The middle opening can be crossed by supporting bands to maintain some degree of rigidity.

A vertical section taken through any part of the basic pessary and not where the balloon is attached can show it to be circular, oval, oblong, square or plain on the inside and rounded on the outside or any other suitable shape.

It can be made of any suitable soft or hard material e.g. rubber or its compositions, synthetic material e.g. flexible vinyl or hard material and made more rigid or less pliable by incorporating steel springs or by any other suitable means.

A form of means of controlling urinary or faecal incontinence according to this invention is illustrated diagrammatically in the drawings accompanying the complete specification.

Referring to the drawing figure 1, means of controlling urinary and faecal incontinence:—

(a) is an intravaginal ring pessary

(b) is a distensible balloon fixed to the outer side of the pessary by adhesive or other means.

(c) is a tube through which the bulb (g) propels air, gas or liquid.

The tube (c) ends in a balloon (d) and then a tap (f) and nozzle to which the bulb (g) is attached.

When the tap (f) is in the open position and the bulb (g) attached to the nozzle (e) (figure 2) and compressed, air, gas or liquid passes into the distensible portion (b) and can be retained there by turning the tap (f) into the off position. The bulb can then be removed. Figure 2 shows diagrammatically the device with the balloon (b) distended.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. Means for controlling incontinence in the female comprising a pessary of any suitable shape on the outer perimeter of which is fixed by adhesive or other means one or more distensible balloons or a distensible tube communi-

cating by a tube passing through the pessary to a means outside the body for distending the balloons or tube.

5 2. Means as claimed in Claim 1 where the pessary has an open middle or the middle is crossed by pieces to provide rigidity.

3. Means as claimed in Claims 1 and 2 where the distension is effected by air, gas or liquid.

10 4. Means as claimed in Claims 1, 2 and 3 where the distension when performed takes place mainly on the outer side of the pessary.

5. Means as claimed in any of the preceding claims whereby the air, gas or liquid can be trapped in the balloon by means of a tap, non-return valve or other means and released when desired. 15

6. Means for controlling urinary or faecal incontinence or both by an intravaginal device substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to the drawings accompanying the complete specification. 20

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Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by the Courier Press, Leamington Spa, 1968.
Published by the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.2, from which
copies may be obtained.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

*This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale*

FIG.

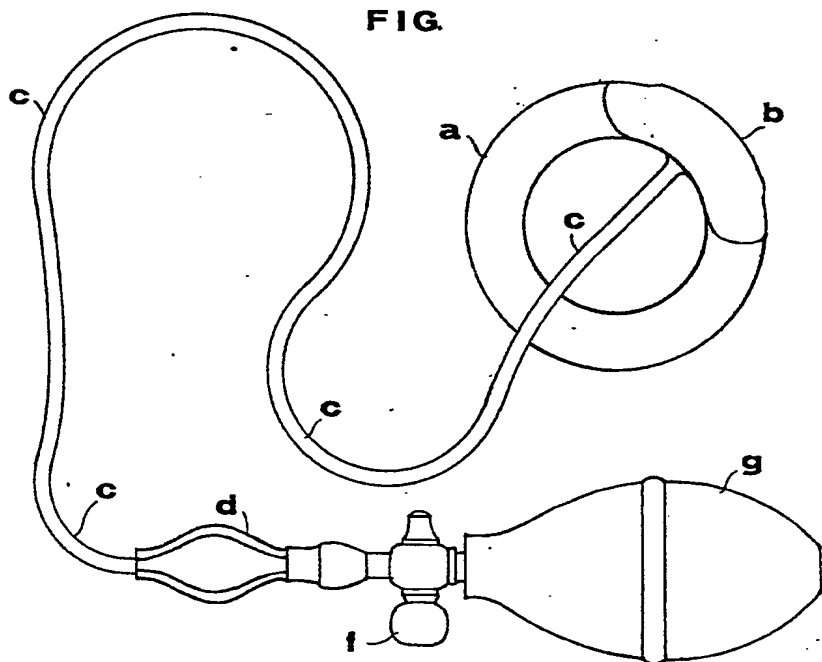


FIG. 2

